



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Man Charged with Attempted Bribery**

The Howard County Police Department and Maryland State Prosecutor's Office announced today the indictment and arrest of a man who attempted to bribe public officials. Sung Yul Kim, also known as Peter Kim, 65, of Fort Lee, NJ was charged in connection with a scheme to bribe public officials in an attempt to gain control of the massage parlor industry in Howard County.

The 14-month investigation began in November, 2002, when Inspector Paul Murphy of the Maryland Chiropractic Board, which licenses massage parlors, reported Kim's bribery attempt to the Office of the State Prosecutor. Inspector Murphy, acting in an undercover capacity at the direction of the State Prosecutor, met on several occasions with Kim, who wanted assistance in operating and expanding his massage parlor business free of regulatory requirements. Kim, whose business is located at 6325 Washington Blvd. in suites L and M, paid Murphy in cash, liquor and jewelry for his assistance.

While attempting to bribe Murphy, Kim also reached out to two Howard County police officers, Detective Guy Williams and Lieutenant Keith Lessner. The detectives met with Kim and were paid in cash, jewelry, meals and liquor to assist Kim in his effort to take over and control the massage parlor industry in Howard County.

On Feb. 11, the Howard County Grand Jury returned a three-count indictment charging Kim with attempted bribery of Murphy, Williams and Lessner. The indictment was sealed until Kim was arrested today. Kim will face a penalty of two to 12 years for each count of attempted bribery. Three women employed by Kim also were charged with immigration violations.

The investigation was a joint effort of the Howard County Police Department, the Office of the State Prosecutor, the Maryland Chiropractic Board, the Howard County State's Attorney's Office, and the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

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